

IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for measuring the length of a fish that is attached to a fish holder, the device comprising:

a base including a first section that is oriented in a mostly horizontal plane, a downward-facing surface of the base being the zero mark for measuring the fish;

a foldable measuring tape section having distance indicators along the length of said tape, a first end of said tape being attached to the base; and

an opening that penetrates completely through the first section of the base such that the fish holder can be inserted into the opening while the fish is attached to the fish holder, so that gravity causes the foldable measuring tape and the fish to hang in the same downward direction

~~a base section attachable to a fish holding device and to said foldable tape section.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the said opening base is ~~provided with~~ a groove penetrating completely through the said base and extending from an edge of the said base toward a center area of the said base

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 1 [[2]], wherein the said base is provided with a means for obstructing the ~~pathway of opening said groove.~~

Claim 4 (original): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said distance indicators are evenly-spaced lines along the length of said tape.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the said distance indicators include evenly spaced lines and ~~[[are]]~~ incremented numbers.

Claim 6 (original): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the color of said distance indicators is selected so as to contrast with the color of said tape.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the foldable measuring said tape is being repeatably removably and attached ~~removably attached to~~ the said base.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (original): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said tape is made of a washable cloth material.

Claim 10 (original): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said tape is made of a washable plastic material.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of measuring a fish comprising:

holding a fish at a first end with a holding device;

inserting the fish and holding device into an opening in a horizontally-oriented section of a measuring device so that the first end of the fish is aligned with a downward-facing surface of the measuring device;

~~attaching a measuring device, having a base and a measuring tape, to the holder at the first end of the fish;~~

providing extending a the flexible measuring tape that is attached to the measuring device longitudinally so that gravity causes the measuring tape and the fish to hang in the same downward direction of the body of the fish with the fish being positioned between the tape and an observer; and

visually determining the length of the fish by comparing a distal second end of the fish to distance indicators provided on the tape.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim 11, further comprising taking a photograph of the fish, and measuring device, and measuring tape, with the fish being located between the tape and a the camera so that the length of the fish is recorded ~~on film~~.

Claim 13 (new): The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the base further comprises:
a second section joined at an approximately 90 degree angle to the first section so as to form an "L" shape.

Claim 14 (new): The device as recited in claim 13, wherein:

the first end of the foldable measuring tape is attached to the second section of the base.

Claim 15 (new): The device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a weight attached to the second end of the foldable measuring tape.

Claim 16 (new): A device for measuring the length of a fish that is attached to a fish holder, said device comprising:

a base including first and second sections joined at an approximately 90 degree angle so as to form an "L" shape, the first section of the base being oriented in a mostly horizontal plane and a downward facing surface of the first section of the base being the zero mark for measuring the fish;

a foldable tape section having distance indicators along the length of said tape, the second section of the base being attached to one end of said foldable tape section; and

an opening that penetrates completely through a portion of the first section of the base such that the fish holder can be inserted into the opening while the fish is attached to the fish holder, so that gravity causes the foldable tape section and the fish to hang in the same downward direction.

Claim 17 (new): The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the base includes a means for obstructing the opening so as to prevent the fish holder from exiting the opening.

Claim 18 (new): The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the distance indicators include evenly spaced lines and incremented numbers.

Claim 19 (new): The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the color of the distance indicators is selected so as to contrast with the color of the tape.

Claim 20 (new): The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the tape is repeatedly removably attached to the base.

Claim 21 (new): The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the tape is made of one of a washable cloth material and a washable plastic material.